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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE 6455

UNCLAS STATE 030044

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY CLINTON ON AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

THE FOLLOWING IS A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO
ALL STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID PERSONNEL:

DEAR COLLEAGUES:

TODAY PRESIDENT OBAMA ANNOUNCED A NEW STRATEGY TO GUIDE U.S. POLICY IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. THIS STRATEGY FOCUSES OUR EFFORTS TOWARD MEETING A CORE GOAL: TO DISRUPT, DISMANTLE AND DEFEAT AL QAEDA AND ITS SAFE HAVENS IN PAKISTAN, AND TO PREVENT THEIR RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN OR PAKISTAN.

WE ARE PURSUING THIS GOAL BECAUSE THE U.S. HAS A VITAL INTEREST IN THE STABILITY OF AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. IF LEFT ALONE, THE THREATS EMANATING FROM THAT REGION ENDANGER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES AROUND THE WORLD.

THEREFORE, AS THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR, MEETING OUR CORE GOAL REQUIRES THAT WE USE ALL ELEMENTS OF OUR NATIONAL POWER - DIPLOMATIC, DEVELOPMENT, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND INFORMATIONAL. THAT'S WHY I AM WRITING YOU TODAY. BECAUSE WHETHER THIS STRATEGY SUCCEEDS OR NOT DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON ALL OF US AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND USAID.

OUR NEW APPROACH IN AFGHANISTAN EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF FULLY RESOURCING A COUNTER-INSURGENCY STRATEGY, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO DEPLOY MORE MILITARY TRAINERS TO HELP BOLSTER THE AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES. BUT THE MAJOR SHIFT IN THIS STRATEGY IS TO EMPHASIZE OUR DIPLOMATIC AND CIVILIAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED IN THE STRATEGIC REVIEW ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR USAID. THAT MEANS MORE CIVILIAN EXPERTISE WORKING ON THE GROUND; IT MEANS PURSUING GREATER REGIONAL DIPLOMACY; AND IT MEANS SUSTAINED HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION AND FOCUS IN WASHINGTON.

PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS ASKED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN RESOURCES FOR OUR DIPLOMATIC AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, AND WE WILL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH CONGRESS TO SEE THAT THESE REQUESTS ARE FULLY FULFILLED. IT ALSO MEANS CHANGING THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS: THIS NEW STRATEGY MAKES CLEAR THAT WE MUST IMPLEMENT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT, RESOURCES, AND FOCUS OF OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

IMPLEMENTING OUR STRATEGY WILL BE AMONG THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES FOR ME AND MY ENTIRE LEADERSHIP TEAM, INCLUDING THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, WHO REPORTS DIRECTLY TO ME AND WILL BE THE FOCAL POINT FOR ALL OUR CIVILIAN ACTIVITIES IN THIS EFFORT. AND OF COURSE, WE WILL BE ASKING ALL COUNTRIES WHO HAVE A STAKE IN THE FUTURE OF THIS CRITICAL REGION TO DO THEIR PART - A MESSAGE I WILL DELIVER NEXT WEEK WHEN I MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM OVER EIGHTY COUNTRIES AT THE HAGUE.

GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE CHALLENGE WE FACE, IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE GREATER THAN BEFORE. THE EXPECTATIONS ARE HIGH; BUT WE CAN MEET THEM. IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD, I ASK FOR ALL OF YOUR IDEAS, TALENT, CREATIVITY, HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE TO HELP MAKE THIS NEW STRATEGY SUCCEED. THE ABILITY OF THE AFGHAN AND PAKISTANI PEOPLE TO BUILD PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS LIVES - AND THE FUTURE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES - REQUIRES NOTHING LESS.

END TEXT.
CLINTON